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A SQUARE DEAL SECURED.

The government should have accepted the amendment of the opposition in the commons, or should have prepared the bills regarding good roads so as to make amendment unnecessary.

Two inferences follow the proposal as it stood before the senate began its revision, namely, that the federal government desires to interfere in provincial affairs when political expediency suggested, and that in the distribution of federal bounty the interests of the party will be duly considered.

The plea of the Montreal Gazette is that provincial funds are wasted by provincial governments, and it is not desired to waste federal funds. Yet everything points to an expenditure under party machinery, and no one expects for a moment that it means economy or efficiency.

The end will probably be that the federal parliament will distribute its bounty as it does its subsidy money, according to population. This means that the provinces that are under liberal government will not be discriminated against, and that is the great consideration.

VIVISECTION IS CONDEMNED.

The anti-vivisectionists of Great Britain rejoice over the vindication they have received from a royal commission which was appointed six years ago. Vivisection, as practiced upon living animals, and in the name of science, became so offensive in some cases that an active propaganda was conducted against it, and apparently to some purpose.

The commission was composed of eight members, most of them scientists, and all of them believers in, if not advocates of, vivisection. The biased nature of the commission suggested that the report of it might be biased or partial, and W. T. Stead in advance pronounced it a failure and a farce. And lo and behold it is a practical endorsement of what the vivisectionists alleged. The experiments on animals should be discontinued, when they are painful, and that where operations have been made for a purpose the animals should be killed while in a state of anaesthesia.

Only under such circumstances can vivisection, say the commissioners, be justified morally. Vivisection in demonstration has been justified, and yet the commissioners appear to have given away the case. They have admitted in their report about all that has been claimed by the anti, namely, "that certain results claimed from time to time have been proved by experiments upon living animals, and alleged to have been beneficial in preventing or curing diseases, have on further investigation and experience been found to be fallacious or useless."

This report will strengthen the hands of the anti-vivisectionists in America, who have been protesting against some of the practices or experiments made by medical men in the alleged interest of science, and with revelations of the most revolting kind.

THE LOSS TO CANADA.

There was a revival of the discussion on reciprocity when the representatives from Alberta and Saskatchewan appeared before the senate, and opposed the grain bill in its present form. The minister of trade and commerce had said in the commons that the bill was, in some respects, framed in order to meet the views of the grain growers of the west, but while the measure was still under consideration in the commons the officers of the grain growers' association appeared before the committee and asked for amendments which Mr. Foster declined to accept.

Now the senate is revising the bill, and it has a right to do, and is accepting some of the suggestions of the grain men on the ground that they know what they want and that parliament should and must have a care for them. The secretaries of the Alberta and Saskatchewan Associations are the most active spirits in opposition to the bill, and they have stirred up hostility by incidentally telling the senate that many who opposed reciprocity in September are now repenting of it in sackcloth and ashes, that they were willing to be "kicked" because of their folly.

Asked if he had met any supporter of reciprocity who now regretted it Mr. Freame, of Alberta, said he had not; and when asked if Alberta was not afraid of the competition of Australia and Argentina he said no, that Canada, in all the productions of the farm, could compete with the world. "The defeat of reciprocity," said Mr. Freame, "has cost the west \$20,000,000."

Because of this frankness, in indirectly criticising the policy of the government, and showing how hurtful it was to the country, Senators Taylor and Pope undertook to punish the westerners by objecting to the payment of their expenses. It was shown that all of them—MacKenzie, Long, Freame and Green—were invited to appear before the senate and only one was known to be liberal, before Sept. 21st. Result—mortification and distemper on the part of the protesting senators.

MEAT PACKERS "NOT GUILTY."

The meat packers of Chicago, eight of them, and representing a billion dollar merger, have been acquitted of the charge that they had criminally combined to restrain and restrict trade to the great injury of the consuming public.

It was a trial of tremendous importance. Growing out of it, or associated with it, was the idea that living was made higher by reason of the criminal compact, and that the comfort of the people would be materially promoted if this compact could be broken.

The Sherman anti-trust law was invoked, and the packers felt uneasy, not to say anxious, because that law had led to the convictions of very wealthy and worthy people, and it was no respecter of persons. The trial was by jury, whose sessions began on December 6th, 1911, and were continued, with necessary rests and adjournment, until Tuesday last. Then came the climax, when the case went to the jury. "I charge you," said Judge Carpenter, at the close of his address, "particularly that defendants are not to be convicted merely upon suspicion; they are not to be convicted merely because you think such a conviction might be popular. And here let me say that the matter of the high cost of living, about which we have heard and read so much during the last year or more, has nothing to do with this case."

Conviction meant a fine of \$5,000 on each case, or imprisonment for a year, or both. The government, in the prosecution, had spent \$100,000, and the defence cost \$500,000. The jury deliberated for some ten hours, or such part of the time as did not constitute the night during which they slept. Their verdict was "not guilty."

The packers would do well to take warning and avoid any further conflict with the government, but it is hardly likely they will be so wise. Assuming that the government has done its worst, they will be inclined to draw the merger bond a little tighter and the beef eaters must pay, pay, pay.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Speaking of the high cost of living, how's this: Potatoes, \$2 a bushel; milk, 18c a quart. Those are the conditions in Birmingham, Ala.

The machine politicians of South Renfrew want to protest the election of Hon. Mr. Graham. Political malice, not yet satisfied, eh?

Abolishing the bars is, in the opinion of Hon. Mr. Hanna, a joke.

Sir James Whitney, in the contemplation of the subject "is lost in wonderment." Well, well.

A Scotch parliament! Why not? Scotland has local questions that should be considered by a local legislature and when the imperial parliament is at it there may as well be a complete disposal of the subject.

Manitoba gets from the federal gov-

ernment a piece of crown land, in Winnipeg, worth \$1,000,000, for \$200,000. In this way the conservative government at Ottawa is helping Manitoba to make up its deficits. It's very nice of them.

The day of the west is surely coming. In the next redistribution of seats the newer provinces will be entitled to about twenty members, and what they, added to the present western contingent want they must have. The big interests of the east must sooner or later defer to the big interests of the west.

Our Hebrew friends are understood to be satisfied with the amended charter of Queen's College which requires the trustees to "satisfy themselves of the Christian character of those appointed to the staff." The test may still be difficult. Playing a part, and playing it real well, is hard enough.

How the men who constitute the ministerial party used to howl about the taxation of the people. Revenue of the country large? Yes, but unnecessarily the millions were extracted from the people, and it should not be. At the same time the public debt was increasing. And never before was there such a scattering of money while the "economists" dance like dervishes.

PRESS OPINIONS.

It Was Remarkable.
Ottawa Journal. Wonders never cease. The Orange convention at Kingston adjourned without denouncing the Ne Temere decree.

The Election is Over.
Ottawa Free Press. The British born were a big factor before the last election, but they are of no account when it comes to tendering for public supplies.

Protest Called For.
Ottawa Journal. Dr. Edwards, M.P., contends that short weight has resulted in \$2,000,000 loss to the Ontario cheese producers. This would seem to justify language as strong as any cheese.

Very Alarming Talk.
Toronto Globe. If Col. Sam continues to talk in millions the farmers in the back townships will begin to think that invasion would be cheaper than the colonel's method of preparing for it.

Tariff Reform Dead.
Hamilton Herald. W. F. Cockshutt, M.P. for Brantford, who a week ago predicted the early triumph of a tariff reform government in Great Britain under Bonar Law as premier, must have received the news of Mr. Balfour's resurrection with great joy!

B.C.'s Liberal Policy.
Toronto Globe. The abolition of the poll tax; exemption of improvements on all lands paying taxes to the provincial government; readjustment of taxation; the raising of the exemption of incomes limit to \$2,000; provincial department of labor and free labor bureau; thorough inspection of all industrial premises; a comprehensive system of industrial insurance; extension of the scope of the Workmen's compensation act to cover all hazardous employments; complete prohibition of Oriental labor; a minimum wage and an eight-hour day for government and government-aided work; immediate construction of railways to Peace River, the island, and the interior; construction of government-owned elevators; no public land for speculators; improved methods of preventing timber waste.

The bill extending the boundaries of Quebec passed the commons on Wednesday. The population of the added territory is 1,262, of whom ten are white men.

"Jesu' Lover of My Soul," "Consider the Lilies," and many others. Dutton's.

The investigation into the charges of partisan conduct against Fortmaster Bristow, of Bright, Ont., fell flat; no witnesses appeared.

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